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SUBJECT: UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS: DEMARCHE TO BELGIUM ON
SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS

REF: STATE 153946

¶1. (U) When reftel arrived, the entire Belgian IO team was in NY attending the UNGA. On October 6, DCM Imbrie and Polcounselor Andrews met with Belgian UN experts, headed by Benedicte Frankinet (IO P/DAS-equivalent) to discuss the scale of assessments and UNGA.

¶2. (U) DCM reviewed US priorities for the 2007-2009 Scale of Assessments Review, stressing USG priorities for maintenance of the cap and mechanisms to ensure rapidly developing countries such as the Asian tigers have their GNI reflected more quickly in the scale. He pushed for the GNI to reflect a three-year average rather than the current mechanism or a six-year average, and noted Japanese concerns about their scale.

¶3. (U) Frankinet understood the U.S. position, but noted there will be an EU effort to push back against us. She realizes Congress will work hard to ensure all member states know how strongly the U.S. feels about maintenance of the 22% cap.

¶4. (U) Frankinet had just returned from Beijing, and noted it appears (and as reflected in the Chinese speech at the UNGA) that China is ready to pay more at the UN. She did not have any further information (i.e., whether China would be ready to forgo the LDC cap or other mechanism.)

¶5. (SBU) Comment: Belgium recognizes the pressure the U.S. can and will assert to maintain the 22% cap and will likely not oppose keeping the cap, but we expect Belgium will stay linked with other EU members on other aspects of the scale.
Korologos
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